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**FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2001**

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT

(\$)355.00**Complete if Known**

Application Number

Filing Date

11/17/00

First Named Inventor

Robert L. Philpott

Examiner Name

Group Art Unit

Attorney Docket No.

R128-1**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- 1.
- ☐
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit
Account
NumberDeposit
Account
Name☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required
Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17☐ Applicant claims small entity status
See 37 CFR 1.27

- 2.
- ☒
- Payment Enclosed:**

☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money
Order ☐ Other**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description

Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	710	201	355		Utility filing fee	<u>355.00</u>
106	320	206	160		Design filing fee	
107	490	207	245		Plant filing fee	
108	710	208	355		Reissue filing fee	
114	150	214	75		Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)355.00**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES**

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Independent Claims	-20** =	X	
Multiple Dependent	-3** =	X	

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Description

Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Code (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9		Claims in excess of 20
102	80	202	40		Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204	135		Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	80	209	40		** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9		** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2)

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**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130 205 65		Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50 227 25		Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130 139 130		Non-English specification	
147 2,520 147 2,520		For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
112 920* 112 920*		Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840* 113 1,840*		Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110 215 55		Extension for reply within first month	
116 390 216 195		Extension for reply within second month	
117 890 217 445		Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390 218 695		Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890 228 945		Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310 219 155		Notice of Appeal	
120 310 220 155		Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270 221 135		Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510 138 1,510		Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110 240 55		Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240 241 620		Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240 242 620		Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440 243 220		Design issue fee	
144 600 244 300		Plant issue fee	
122 130 122 130		Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 130 123 130		Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 180 126 180		Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40 581 40		Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 710 246 355		Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710 249 355		For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710 279 355		Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900 169 900		Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3)

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SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	Telephone	Date
<u>Jonathan R. Smith</u>	<u>47098</u>	<u>912/264-4100</u>	<u>11/17/00</u>
Signature	<u>Jonathan R. Smith</u>		

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
APPLICATION FOR UTILITY PATENT

PREAMBLE

INVENTOR: Robert L. Philpott
APPLICANT: Robert L. Philpott

TITLE OF INVENTION: **PERSONAL HYGIENE CLEANSING APPARATUS**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is commonplace in developed countries to cleanse one's nether body parts with either bathroom tissue or a bidet, or both, after using the toilet. The problem with tissue alone is that sometimes it is not sufficient to cleanse completely enough to suit the user. The problems with the bidet, on the other hand, are plumbing cost and space requirements for installation. The present invention provides the same or greater cleansing thoroughness of the bidet at significantly less cost and essentially no additional required space.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a cleansing apparatus to connect to existing hot and cold water supply lines in a bathroom, that would be either built into a wall or vanity, hung on or hinged to a vertical surface, or made portable in either a cart or carrying case. The apparatus comprises means for mixing the hot and cold water and conveying the water stream to a hand-held sprayer having a built-in control valve. Means are also provided, optionally, for adding soap solution to the stream. The invention also provides a bracket for holding the spray head when it is not in use. The invention also comprises alternative sprayer heads which can be attached to, or substituted for, each other by the user or by multiple users.

Objects of this invention are to provide: a) a space- and money-saving alternative to a bidet for personal hygiene cleansing; b) a discreet and unobtrusive personal hygiene cleansing apparatus; c) a portable apparatus for personal hygiene cleansing; d) a personal hygiene apparatus that can be used with interchangeable spray heads; e) a personal hygiene cleansing apparatus that will add soap or other additives to the water conveniently and at the user's discretion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an exploded view of a first generic embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an exploded view of a second, built-in, embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 is an exploded view of a third, soap-applying, embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a fourth, portable, embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of interchangeable spray heads for the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now in detail to the drawings, in which like numerals depict like features in all drawings:

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Figure 1 is an exploded view of a first embodiment of the invention. A hot water supply line 1 and a cold water supply line 2 are connected to a hot water tube 3 and a cold water tube 4 respectively, either directly or through isolation valves 5 and 6. The tubes 3 and 4 are connected in turn to a mixer 7, containing one or more mixer valves 8 capable of being manually adjusted to control the proportions of hot and cold water fed through the invention and thereby the temperature of the water. Figure 1 shows two valves with separate valve bodies, but the valve bodies may be combined into a single body with multiple flow paths. The configuration of the mixer is not important as long as the mixer is capable of controlling the individual proportions of the hot and cold water. The mixer outlet 9 is connected to a flexible hose 10, which in turn is connected to a hand-held spray gun 11. The spray gun 11 comprises a valve body 12, a

5 spray head 13 and a valve handle 14 that is spring-biased and normally closed. Once the temperature of the water is adjusted to a satisfactory level by adjusting the mixer valve or valves 8, pressing the handle 14 opens the valve body 12 and allows properly attemperated water to emerge from the spray head 13 for application to a user's body. A bracket 15, attachable to a vertical surface and shaped to hold valve body 12 when not in use, may be provided. The mixer 7 may be built into a generic faucet assembly 16, shown here as environmental structure.

10 Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a second, built-in, embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, hot and cold water tubes 3 and 4 come from isolation valves 5 and 6 (not shown) within a space 20 fronted by a vertical panel 21 as may be found in a wall, cabinet, vanity, or the like. Mixer 7 and bracket 15 are mounted on the inside surface 22 of a door 23, which is attached by hinges 24 to panel 21, and may be opened outwardly by pulling on door handle 25. The extreme positions of door 23 may be delimited by latch 26 and rail assembly 27. A user seated on a toilet nearby may access the invention by pulling door 23 open and pulling spray gun 11 upwardly through bracket 15, and then by extending hose 10 sufficiently to reach into a position directing water into the toilet. By pressing valve handle 14, water can be sprayed into the toilet and tested for the proper temperature. The temperature can be adjusted as desired by adjusting mixer 7. Then the spray gun 11 can be pointed toward the user's body and the flow and force of the water stream controlled by the valve handle 14 to clean the body completely and comfortably. After use, the valve handle 14 is released, stopping the flow of water, and the user can dry off the spray gun 11 with tissue and return it to its bracket 15. When the door 23 is closed in the direction of arrow C, the invention is hidden from view and protected from dust.

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Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a fourth, portable, embodiment of the invention. In this illustration, it is embodied in a wheeled cart 50, although the same assembly could be fitted into a carrying case or other means of portage. The functional difference between this embodiment and the third embodiment is that there is only one water tube 51 instead of hot and cold water tubes 3 and 4 (not shown). A flexible funnel 52 is used to connect the apparatus to a sink or bathtub faucet (not shown) after the temperature of the water has been adjusted properly at the sink or faucet. The water from tube 51 flows to one arm of a tee 53, where it is split to a soap tank supply hose 54 and a fresh water supply hose 55. The soap tank supply hose 54 goes to a lower petcock 36 and thence to the soap tank 37. The soap tank 37 is mounted within cabinet 56 so that its watertight cap 42 may be opened at an accessible surface 57 of the cabinet 56. Cabinet 56 is shown here with rigid transparent walls so that components of the invention can be seen, but neither transparency nor rigidity of walls is a necessary aspect of the invention. The fresh water supply hose 55 goes to a mixer 7 where the flow of fresh water is controlled by a water valve 58. Soapy water leaves soap tank 37 via soap supply hose 40 to mixer 7 where its flow is controlled by soap valve 59. Mixed water leaves the mixer 7 via hose 10 to enter spray gun 11. Spray gun 11 is stored in recess 60 in surface 57 when not in use. Funnel 52 likewise is stored in hole 61 in surface 57 when not in use. When the invention is installed in a cart 50, typically the cart may comprise additionally a handle 62, wheels 63 and a foot 64 for ease of handling, but other means of portability including casters or a shoulder strap are not meant to be excluded by these depictions.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view the spray gun 11 configured to receive detachable and interchangeable spray tips. This is a variation of the spray gun 11 portion of the invention in which the spray gun 11 does not have a built in spray tip, but instead a quick connect 80. Several spray heads of identical function but for different users 81a, 81b, and 81c, etc., or spray heads of different function (e.g., angles, spray patterns) 82a, 82b, and 82c, etc., can be connected to quick connect 80 as needed.

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 5 1. A cleansing apparatus connectable to a whole number of pressurized liquid sources, comprising:
a whole number of tubes for delivering respective liquids from the respective sources to an equal
whole number of respective valves;
the valves being controlled by the same whole number of respective actuators;
the valves controlling the flow of the respective liquids into a common header where they are
10 mixed;
the mixed flow passing through a flexible hose to a spray gun;
the spray gun having a spray tip for applying the mixed flow to the body of a user.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1, connectable to said whole number of pressurized liquid sources plus one
additional pressurized liquid source, further comprising:
one additional tube for delivering an additional liquid from the one additional pressurized liquid
source to a flow splitting device;
the flow splitting device creating a bypass stream and a tank input stream;
the tank input stream going to an additive tank;
20 the additive tank having watertight means for introduction of an additive to the tank;
the tank input stream and the additive mixing together in the tank and creating a tank output
stream;
the bypass stream going to a first additional valve being controlled by a first additional actuator;
the tank output stream going to a second additional valve being controlled by a second additional
25 actuator;
the first and second additional valves controlling the flow of the bypass stream and the tank output
stream into said common header.
- 30 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:
said spray tip is detachable from said spray gun, and is interchangeable with alternative spray tips.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein:
said spray tip comprises means for manual adjustment of spray pattern width and direction.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein:
said actuators and said spray gun are mounted within easy reach from a toilet.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein:
said apparatus is mounted on a first surface of a door;
the door being hinged to an enclosure surrounding a space;
the first surface facing inwardly to the space, the door hiding at least a portion of the apparatus
from view when closed.
7. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein:
said apparatus is mounted in a portable case, the case providing user access to said tubes, said
actuators, said watertight means, and said spray gun.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising said alternative spray tips and user access to said
alternative spray tips.
9. A cleansing apparatus, comprising:
a faucet comprising first, second, and third inlets;
a first water supply tube feeding a first stream of water to the first inlet of the faucet;
a second water supply tube feeding a second stream of water to a flow splitting means, the
splitting means splitting the second stream into a third stream and a fourth stream;
the third stream going to the second inlet of the faucet;
the fourth stream going to an additive tank, and thence to the third inlet of the faucet;
the tank having watertight means for introduction of additive to the tank;
the faucet combining said first, third, and fourth streams into a mixed flow;
the mixed flow going to a spray gun.
10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein:
said fourth stream goes to an additive tank and thence to a first input on a flow merging means;
said mixed flow going to a second input on the flow merging means;
the flow merging means yielding a merged flow;
the merged flow going to a spray gun.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

said flow merging means comprises separate flow controlling means for said first input and said second input.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

said controlling means are actuatable by the fingers of one hand, and said controlling means and said flow merging means are built into said spray gun; the spray gun having a spray tip for applying the mixed flow to the body of a user.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:

said spray tip is detachable from said spray gun, and is interchangeable with alternative spray tips.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

said spray tip comprises means for manual adjustment of spray pattern width and direction.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

said actuators and said spray gun are mounted within easy reach from a toilet.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

said apparatus is mounted on a first surface of a door; the door being hinged to an enclosure surrounding a space; the first surface facing inwardly to the space, the door hiding at least a portion of the apparatus from view when closed.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

said apparatus is mounted in a portable case, the case providing user access to said tubes, said actuators, said watertight means, and said spray gun.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising said alternative spray tips and user access to said alternative spray tips.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A personal hygiene cleansing apparatus for use on the toilet is connected to hot and cold water supply lines in a bathroom. The water flows from these lines to a manually-controlled mixer for temperature control and then delivered to a hand-held spray gun. The apparatus may be built in to a wall or vanity, or it may be installed in a case for portability. Optionally, the apparatus comprises a soap tank which mixes soap with a portion of the incoming water for controlled application with the spray gun.

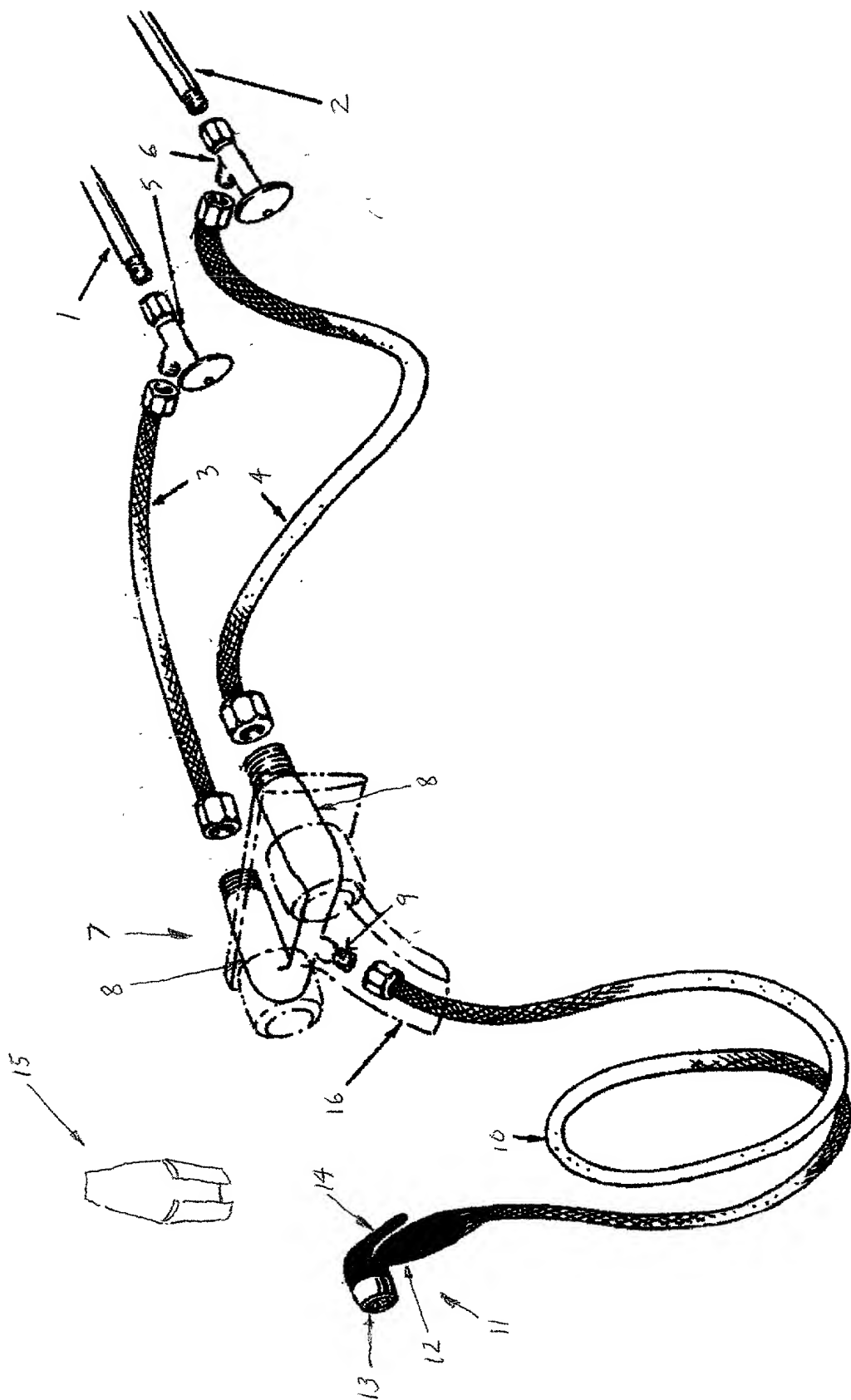


FIG. 1

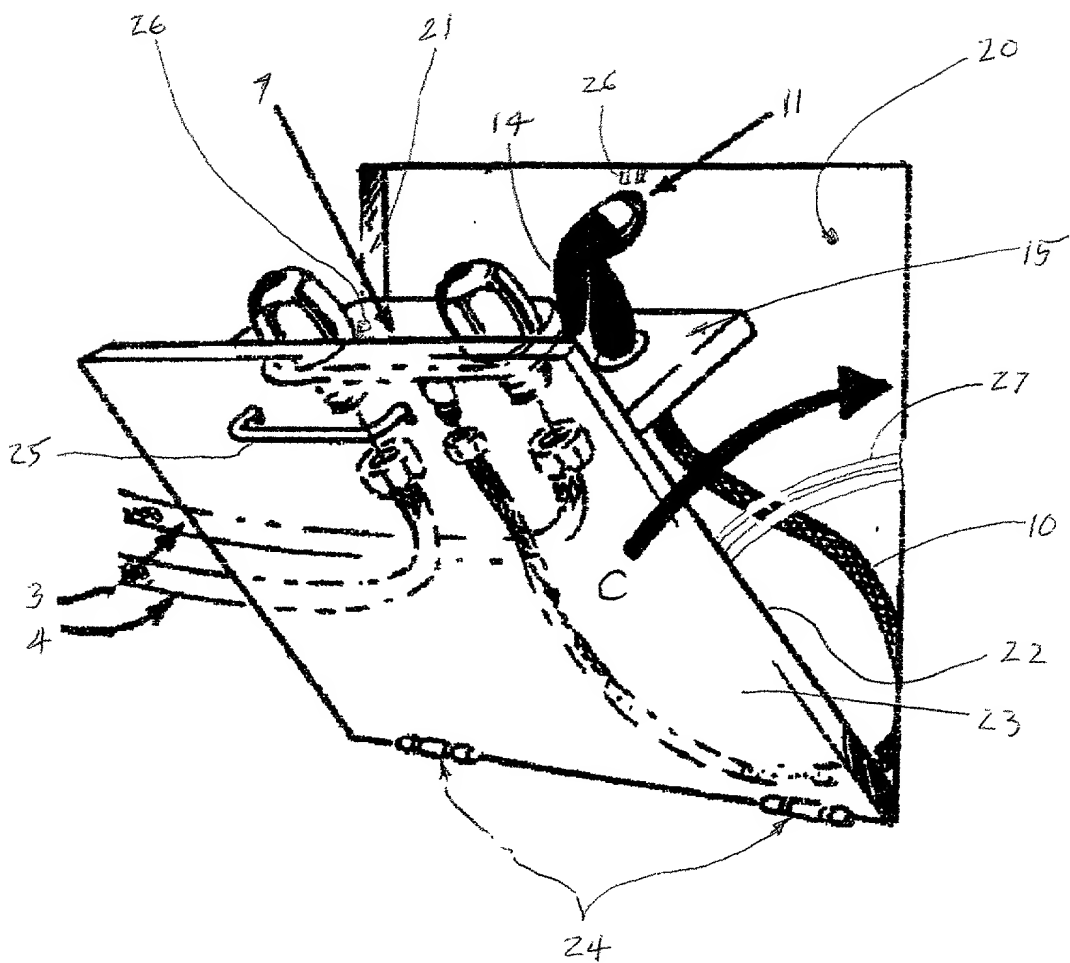


FIG. 2

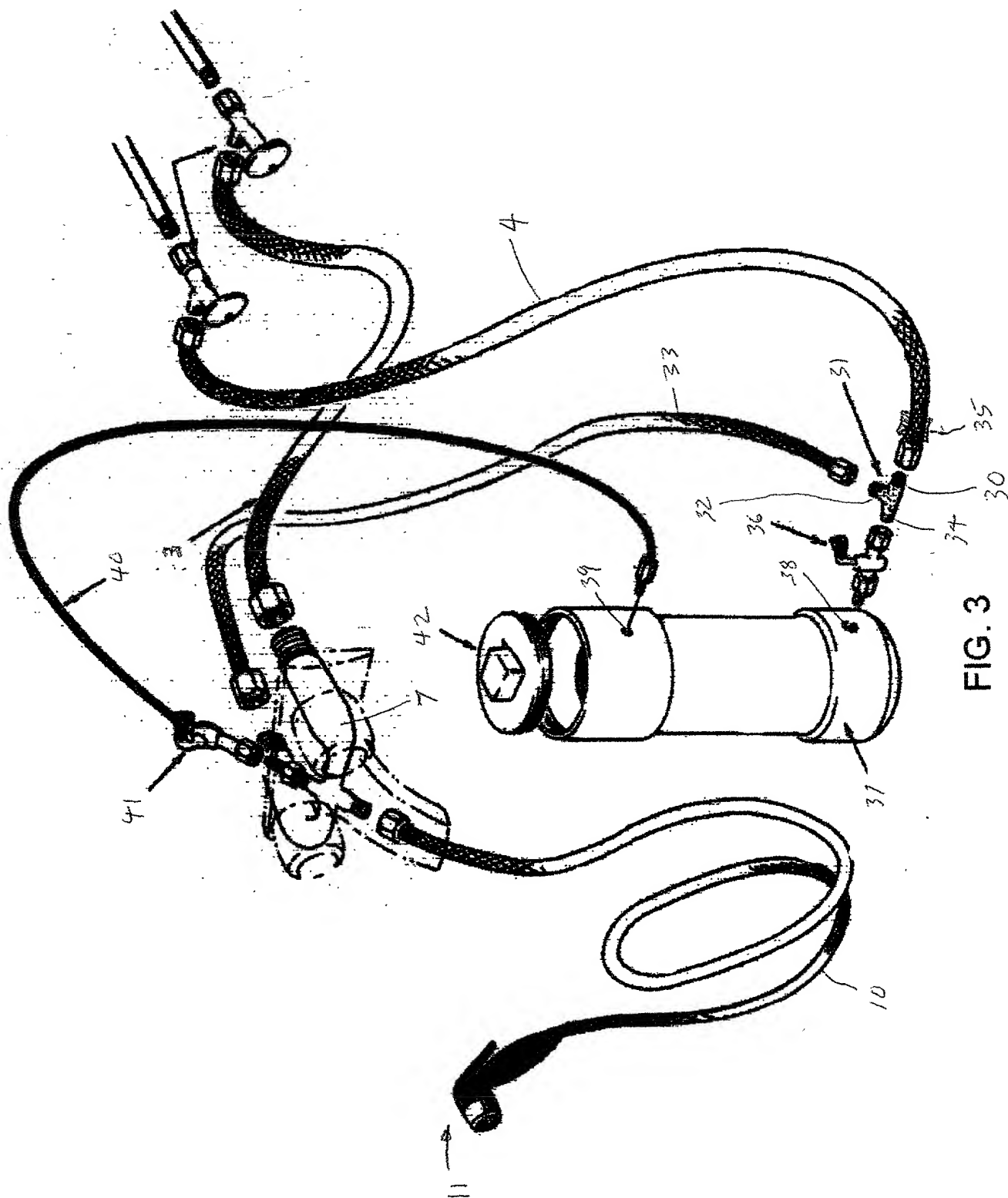


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

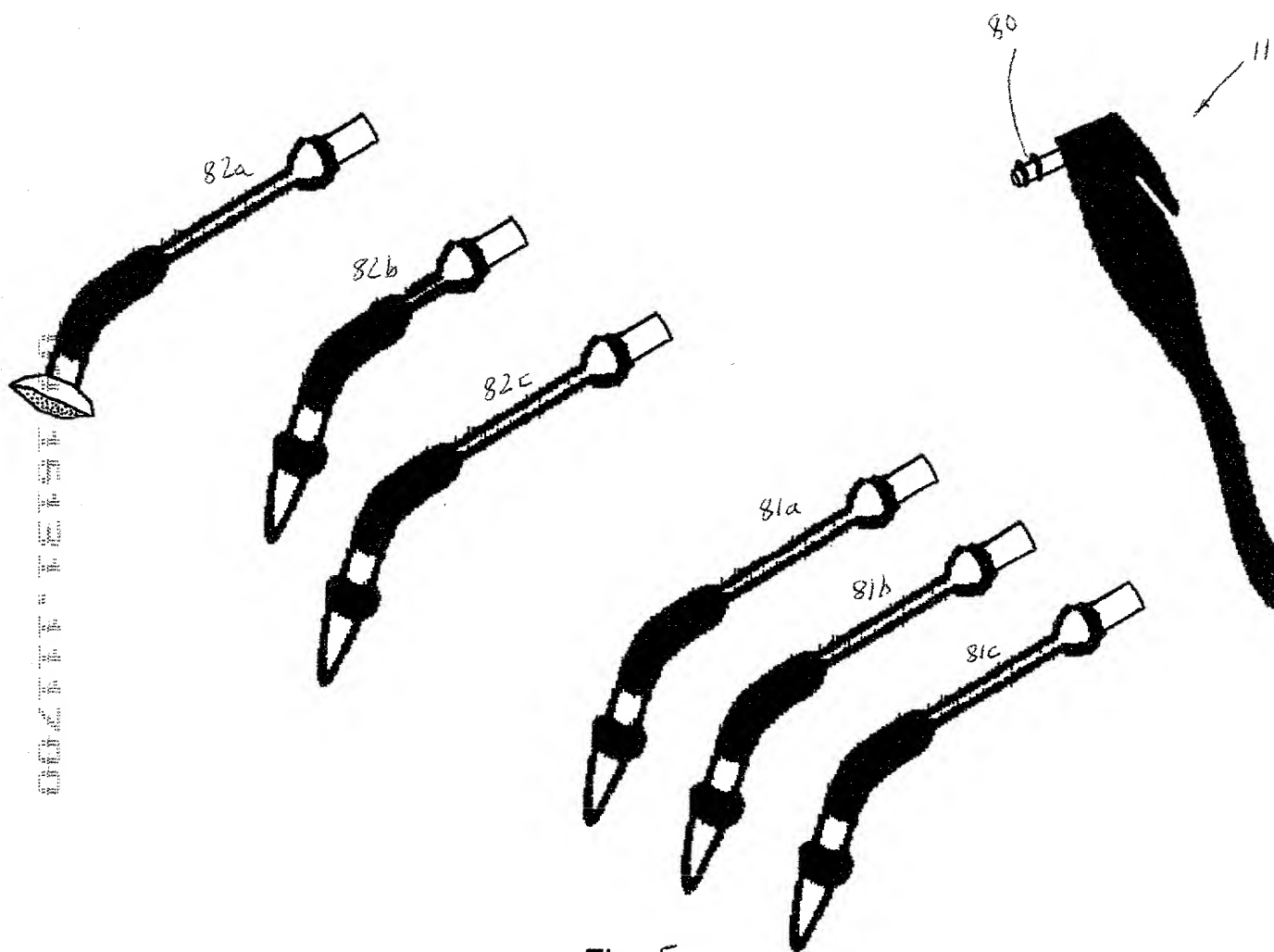



Fig. 5

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	First Named Inventor	Robert L. Philpott
	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	
	Filing Date	11/17/00
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

PERSONAL HYGIENE CLEANSING APPARATUS

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
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☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

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or Surname

Philpott

Inventor's
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NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

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Signature

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